



Satellite image of the former Soviet biowarfare test facility on Vozrozhdeniya Island in the Aral Sea on September 23, 1996. The star-shaped feature is the set of intersecting runways used to land transport planes arriving from biowarfare production facilities in other parts of the former Soviet Union. The facility was abandoned in the late 1980s, but there is fear that weaponized pathogenic organisms have survived and could escape to the mainland, as the Aral's shrinkage has transformed the island to a peninsula. (Image from the Corona satellite.)